

most valuable farm land. Toward the late 1960s, the County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution for the establishment of agricultural preserves for the county.

The current San Joaquin Farm Bureau Office was dedicated in 1972.

There were many changes during the 80s for the San Joaquin Farm Bureau. They reinforced the importance of the dairy industry to the county when the SJFB Board of Directors voted in sharp disagreement with the California Farm Bureau Federation when they asked for \$.29 per hundred weight drop in Class One milk. In addition, the president of Zenith announced its purchase of CalFarm Insurance. The partnership between the Farm Bureau and CalFarm began to materialize.

The Immigration Reform Act of 1986 came through a joint effort by the agricultural interests of California and Congress. The Alien Legalization for Agriculture program was formed in 1987 as a result of immigration legislation that passed in Congress. The SJFB contracted with federal officials to provide local agriculture workers the ability to gain citizenship through the amnesty program that was granted at that time. Thousands of workers were able to utilize this program to become U.S. citizens. At the end of the process, excess funds were used to help start the SJFB Foundation for Agricultural Education.

In 1988, the Environmental Affairs Committee was formed and immediately set out to work on the Endangered Species Act, San Joaquin Air Basin Air Quality, and pesticide regulation and enforcement.

The 1990s brought the advent of many "new town" proposals, self-contained urban areas that would not become incorporated cities. Only one of these new town proposals, Mountain House, was supported by the San Joaquin Farm Bureau and remains an active, growing community in the county.

Efforts were made to create a rural crime task force under the Sheriffs Department to ensure adequate personnel would be allocated to counter crimes impacting agricultural operations. The SJFB initiated policy language at the State Farm Bureau Convention to prioritize metal theft, and to require recyclers to adhere to strict guidelines when accepting metal. Their efforts led to legislation that passed the California State Legislature the following year.

The 2000s enabled the SJFB to work with the county on what is now known as the Cabral Agricultural Center which houses the Agricultural Commissioner, U.C. Cooperative Extension, and the Office of Emergency Services.

San Joaquin Farm Bureau members and staff have advanced the concept of providing an "Ag Venture" program, which helps 13,000 3rd grade students from throughout the county attend one of three "Ag Venture" days. The program gives students the opportunity to learn more about where their food comes from and the benefits of eating local crops.

They have also advanced a "Farmers Market" program that educates 4th grade students in low income schools on the benefits of eating specialty crops that come from the region. At the end of the 4 session program, students are given the opportunity to purchase fresh produce for 10 cents each to bring home fruits and vegetables.

In the past two years, the SJFB was recognized by the American Farm Bureau Federation under their "Counties Activities of Excel-

lence" program. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau's advocacy efforts, agricultural education, and safety training programs all have contributed to their being recognized under this program. The SJFB was selected as the County of the Year in 2013 by the California Farm Bureau Federation.

The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has accomplished a number of commendable things within the community. They have also maintained a county legislative committee that has worked with the State Legislature, and an economic committee that has made progress in enforcement of State realty laws. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau has also assisted the Federal Land Bank to provide funds to farmers, and have campaigned for reapportionment of the State Legislature. In addition to this, the SJFB has maintained a cow-testing association, sponsored 4H activities, cooperated with the extension service in educational programs, and have represented livestock men in demanding dog law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation for their significant contributions, not only to agriculture, but to the community, and the State of California. Congratulations on the past 100 years, and I wish you the best success in the years to come.

HONORING THE 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE MID AMERICA BANK IN MISSOURI

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mid America Bank and recognize the contribution the institution has made to communities in Missouri during its 100 years of operation. Since April is Community Bank Month, it is fitting to celebrate the anniversary of one of Missouri's finest financial institutions. On April 27, 1914, this community bank was founded as the People's Bank of St. Thomas. It was then relocated to Meta, Missouri in 1951, where it operated as the sole location for 27 years and was renamed the Meta State Bank. In 1978, the name Mid America Bank was adopted as the bank grew and opened a second branch in Linn, Missouri. Mid America Bank has continued to expand and currently has five branches throughout the state that allow the people of Missouri access to the financial tools that provide stability and security in their daily life.

The longevity of Mid America Bank is not only a testament to its success and knowledge of the financial services industry, but also its commitment to our Missouri communities. Community banks such as Mid America Bank have a desire to help their customers improve their lives and realize their dreams, all while valuing the customer and respecting the vital role of relationship banking.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing all the employees of Mid America Bank our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their service to the men, women and families of Missouri. Congratulations on 100 years and best wishes for continued success in the next 100 years.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF MARIA DE LA MILERA AND CONGRATULATING HER ON A WELL DESERVED RETIREMENT

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to celebrate the long and successful public service career of Maria De La Milera and congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement. Her commitment to our community and our nation is exemplary and we are all forever grateful for her service. With over 30 years of experience and countless accolades and accomplishments over such an expansive career, South Floridians are truly losing an invaluable member of the fabric of our community.

Maria was born in Holguin, Oriente, Cuba, the oldest of three daughters. After the brutal dictator Fidel Castro seized power, Maria came with her younger sister to the United States in the largest exodus of unaccompanied children from the regime—known as "Pedro Pan." She then spent four years in a Los Angeles orphanage until her parents were finally able to join her in the United States.

As an adult, Maria moved to Miami and began her career helping our South Florida community through public service, working as a constituent service representative for Senator Richard Stone. She continued her career in the office of Senator Paula Hawkins, focusing primarily on immigration cases where she earned a reputation as a caring and compassionate advocate on behalf of all those needing a helping hand. Her commitment to others allowed her to positively shape the lives of many individuals.

Maria then spent a few years in the political realm as Executive Director of the Republican Party of Miami-Dade County, and then joined the government of Miami-Dade County, where she spent the last 23 years supporting our local residents. She has long been known for inspiring those around her, people who will undoubtedly carry on her legacy of professionalism and commitment. There is no greater reward than the satisfaction gained through serving others, and Maria embraced this most noble of endeavors with remarkable principle.

It is my distinct pleasure to join Maria's family; her children Beatriz Maria, Maritza Isabel and Raul De La Milera, Jr.; her grandchildren Michael, Mathew, Madison, Mark, Laenie and Rachel; as well as friends and peers as they honor her many accomplishments and outstanding career. Maria, thank you for your exceptional public service. I wish you only the best in any challenge you choose next to accept.

ON RECOGNITION OF THE OPENING OF SAINT JOSEPH MERCY OAKLAND HOSPITAL'S SOUTH PATIENT TOWER

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 28, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize the opening